(c) During the year 2006 (upto 30.6.2006), under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, 30,920 raids were conducted by the States/ UTs, 1617 persons were arrested, 1097 persons were prosecuted, 35 persons were convicted and goods worth Rs. 679.10 lakhs confiscated. Under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, 55 persons have been detained in various States during the year 2006 (upto 19.7.2006).

Making HIV test mandatory before marriage

*274. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make HIV test mandatory before marriage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States, if any, which have made such a test mandatory?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There is no proposal by the National or State Governments to make HIV test mandatory before marriage.

Curbing the menace of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products

275. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details and market share of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products of various branded items;

(b) the loss that occurs to Government and the industry due to such spurious items; and

(c) the action taken to curb the menace?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) No data is available with the Government regarding market share of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products of various branded items. No authentic estimate is available on the extent of the loss of revenue occurring to the

Government as well as to the industry on account of these products. Legislations such as the Trade Marks Act, 1999, the Copyrights Act, 1957, the Patents Act, 1970, the Customs Act, 1962, the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, the Indian Penal Code, 1860 etc., contain provisions which can be invoked for prosecution/redressal on account of counterfeit, fake, spurious and contraband products.

Surprise inspections by MCI

*276. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has inspected a number of medical colleges to judge their suitability for medical education;

(b) whether it is a fact that MCI conducts such inspections with surprise and suddenness;

(c) if so, whether this policy of surprise and suddenness is unproductive;

(d) whether it is also a fact that MCI is selective about the secrecy and suddenness of such visits; and

(e) the steps proposed to scrap this archaic and highly unprofessional style of conducting inspections by MCI?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAM DOSS): (a) to (e) The Medical Council of India is empowered to conduct inspection of medical colleges and attached hospitals under various provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, and Regulations made thereunder for the purpose of making recommendations to the Central Government for grant of permission to establish a new college or to start new course of study or to increase in the intake capacity; for grant of annual renewal of the permission; for recognition of the medical courses under section 11(2) of the Act; and for maintaining the standard of medical education of the recognized colleges/institutions.

The Medical Council of India has been conducting regular inspection in various medical colleges and attached hospitals which are due for inspection under various categories stated above after due notice. In